

Message Text

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TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

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EXDIS USSALTWO FOR AMB EARLE

FOLLOWING REPEAT USNATO 0144 ACTION STATE JAN 6.

QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE USNATO 0144

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR S/S TARNOFF ONLY

NSC FOR HUNTER ONLY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: NATO, OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY),NAC

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT IN NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL
AS RELEASED TO PRESS

1. THERE FOLLOWS TEXT OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S STATEMENT
IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL ON JANUARY 6, 1978 AS
RELEASED TO THE PRESS (PER INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE
PRESIDENTIAL PARTY, LATERAL DISTRIBUTION OF THIS AND
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PAGE 02 STATE 013443

FOLLOWING REPORTS REGARDING NAC MEETING OF JANUARY 6
WILL BE DETERMINED BY WASHINGTON.)

2.

BEGIN TEXT: MR. SECRETARY GENERAL, GENERAL HAIG, AND
MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL:

-

I AM HAPPY TO MEET AGAIN WITH THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL,
AFTER OUR SUCCESSFUL DISCUSSIONS IN LONDON LAST MAY.

-

I COME TO SEE YOU AT THE END OF A JOURNEY WHICH HAS
TAKEN ME TO SEVEN NATIONS, AND WHICH, FROM BEGINNING
TO END, HAS REMINDED ME OF THE CAUSES FOR WHICH OUR
ALLIANCE WAS FORMED.

-

AT EVERY POINT ON THIS JOURNEY, IN EAST AND WEST, IN
NATIONS TRYING TO COPE WITH THEIR POVERTY AND THOSE
ADJUSTING TO THE CONSEQUENCES OF MATERIAL WEALTH, I
HAVE EMPHASIZED THE VITALITY OF DEMOCRATIC RULE,
INDIVIDUAL FREEDOMS, HUMAN RIGHTS.

-

WE IN THIS HALL UNDERSTAND THOSE VALUES WELL. WITHOUT
THEM, THE WEST STANDS FOR NOTHING AT ALL.

-

AND WE ALSO KNOW, TOO OFTEN FROM PERSONAL EXPERIENCE,
THE COST THE DEFENSE OF THESE LIBERTIES CAN DEMAND.

-

YESTERDAY I WALKED WITH PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING
ALONG THE BEACHES OF NORMANDY--AS I MIGHT ALSO HAVE
WALKED IN ANZIO, IN VERDUN, OR HERE IN BELGIUM IN
FLANDERS FIELD.

-

IF THOSE NAMES FILL US SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH MOURNING
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PAGE 03 STATE 013443

AND WITH PRIDE, IT IS BECAUSE THEY REMIND US THE PRICE
THAT HAS BEEN PAID FOR OUR FREEDOM BEFORE, THE PRICE
WE HOPE NEVER TO HAVE TO PAY AGAIN.

-

NO ONE WHO RECALLS THOSE SACRIFICES CAN WISH THEM EVER
TO BE REPEATED. THE ANCIENT SOIL OF EUROPE BEARS
CONSTANT VISIBLE EVIDENCE OF THE CARNAGE THAT WAR
INEVITABLY BRINGS.

-

IN WARSAW, I SAW BRAVE PEOPLE WHO HAVE REBUILT MUCH OF
THE GRACEFUL CITY THAT WAR TOOK FROM THEM; BUT WHAT
IS NEW ONLY EMPHASIZES HOW MUCH OF THE OLD WAS LOST.

-

HERE IN BELGIUM, TOO OFTEN THE BATTLEFIELD OF EUROPE,
EVERY FAMILY KNOWS OF FRIENDS, HOMES, DREAMS THAT HAVE
BEEN CRUSHED BY WAR.

THAT IS THE CHALLENGE FOR OUR ALLIANCE: TO DEFEND OUR
VALUES FEARLESSLY, WHILE TIRELESSLY WORKING TO PREVENT
WAR.

-

WE KNOW THAT THE PATH TO LASTING PEACE DEPENDS ON
HUMAN UNDERSTANDINGS, NEGOTIATED AGREEMENTS, ACTS OF

GOOD WILL; THE BRAVE INITIATIVES IN THE MIDDLE EAST
SHINE A RAY OF HOPE ONTO ALL INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS.

-

BUT WE ARE UNITED IN BELIEVING THAT OUR DEFENSE MUST
ALWAYS BE STRONG ENOUGH TO DETER ANY THOUGHTS OF
AGGRESSION--THAT WE MUST BE PREPARED FOR COMBAT WE
ALWAYS HOPE TO AVOID.

-

WHEN I MET WITH THE LEADERS OF THE ALLIANCE IN LONDON
THIS PAST MAY, I WAS IMPRESSED WITH THE ALLIES' SERIOUS-
NESS OF PURPOSE, AND BY OUR COMMON DETERMINATION TO
PREPARE NATO FOR THE CHALLENGES OF THE NEXT DECADE.

-

AT THAT MEETING, WE AGREED TO EMBARK ON FOUR MAJOR
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PAGE 04 STATE 013443

EFFORTS:

-- SHORT-TERM MEASURES TO MEET IMMEDIATE MILITARY
PROBLEMS;

-

-- A LONG-TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM, SURVEYING NATO'S
REQUIREMENTS IN TEN SPECIFIC AREAS;

-- AN EAST-WEST STUDY, TO GAIN BETTER UNDERSTANDING
OF TRENDS IN EASTERN EUROPE AND THE SOVIET UNION, AN
OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF WARSAW PACT POWER, AND THE IM-
PLICATIONS FOR THE NATO ALLIANCE; AND

-

-- INTENSIFIED EFFORT TO IMPROVE COOPERATION IN
DEFENSE PROCUREMENT.

-

WE HAVE ALREADY TAKEN MAJOR STEPS IN ALL FOUR AREAS.
I WAS PLEASED BY REPORTS OF THE RECENT MINISTERIAL
MEETING OF THE DEFENSE PLANNING COMMITTEE AND THE
NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL, AND I LOOK FORWARD TO THE
TRANS-ATLANTIC DIALOGUE ON DEFENSE TRADE THAT THE
INDEPENDENT EUROPEAN PROGRAM GROUP HAS PROPOSED.

-

TOGETHER WE ARE SETTING THE NATO ALLIANCE ON A COURSE
THAT WILL REAFFIRM OUR SHARED COMMITMENT TO PEACE, TO
A STRONG AND VITAL ALLIANCE, AND TO MEETING ANY
CHALLENGE TO OUR STRENGTH AND COHESION IN THE YEARS
AHEAD.

-

THE LEADERS OF THE ALLIANCE WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY
TO REVIEW THE RESULTS OF OUR EFFORTS, IN A SUMMIT-
LEVEL NATO CONFERENCE THIS SPRING.

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I AM HAPPY TO RENEW MY INVITATION TO THE ALLIANCE TO
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PAGE 05 STATE 013443

HOLD THAT MEETING IN WASHINGTON, ON MAY 30 AND 31.

-

THE DEFENSE BUDGET THAT I WILL BE SUBMITTING TO THE CONGRESS LATER THIS MONTH WILL PROVIDE FOR REAL INCREASES IN U.S. DEFENSE SPENDING, MORE THAN COMPENSATING FOR THE EFFECTS OF INFLATION.

-

EVEN MORE IMPORTANT, A MAJOR PART OF THIS EFFORT WILL RESPOND DIRECTLY TO OUR OBJECTIVES IN THE LONG-TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM, AND WILL IMPROVE THE U.S. MILITARY COMMITMENT TO THE ALLIANCE.

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THE NUMBER OF U.S. SOLDIERS IN EUROPE WILL INCREASE BY MORE THAN 8,000 IN THE NEXT YEAR AND A HALF, AND WE WILL SUBSTANTIALLY IMPROVE OUR REINFORCEMENT CAPABILITY.

-

WE HAVE MADE THESE EFFORTS IN THE NAME OF THE ALLIANCE, WE HOPE THAT WITH A FAR-REACHING, REALISTIC, LONG-TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM, THE ALLIANCE AS A WHOLE WILL MATCH OR EXCEED THE IMPROVEMENTS WHICH WE OURSELVES ARE NOW UNDERTAKING.

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THE UNITED STATES WILL CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN UNDIMINISHED ITS FIRM COMMITMENT TO NATO, AND WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE THE FORCES NEEDED TO BACK UP THAT COMMITMENT.

-

WE WILL CONTINUE TO SUBSCRIBE TO THE DOCTRINE, STRATEGY, AND POLICIES OF THE ALLIANCE, INCLUDING FORWARD DEFENSE AND FLEXIBLE RESPONSE.

-

WE WILL WORK WITH YOU TO MAINTAIN DETERRENCE ACROSS THE ENTIRE SPECTRUM OF STRATEGIC, THEATER NUCLEAR, AND CONVENTIONAL FORCES, SO THAT THE WARSAW PACT STATES WILL KNOW THAT ALL OF US ARE UNITED IN COMMITMENT TO DEFENSE OF ALL THE TERRITORIES OF NATO MEMBERS.

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PAGE 06 STATE 013443

THERE WILL BE NO FLAGGING OF AMERICAN WILL OR ABILITY TO MEET ALL OF OUR NATO COMMITMENTS, WHICH HAVE THE FIRM SUPPORT OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

-

THERE ARE OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES FACING THE ALLIANCE.

-

WE HAVE SET AN EXCELLENT RECORD OF CONSULTING WITH ONE

ANOTHER, ON A WIDE RANGE OF ISSUES. THAT CAN AND SHOULD CONTINUE, AND THE UNITED STATES WILL INCREASINGLY DRAW THE NATO ALLIES INTO ITS COUNSELS.

-

AS SALT II PROCEEDS TOWARDS AN AGREEMENT WHICH WE HOPE WILL COME SOON, WE WILL INTENSIFY OUR CONSULTATIONS WITH ALL OF YOU, RECOGNIZING THAT THE COUNCIL IS THE FOCUS OF OUR DELIBERATIONS.

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AS WE MOVE BEYOND SALT II, WE WILL UNDERTAKE BROAD DISCUSSIONS HERE ON ALL ALLIED SECURITY ISSUES.

-

WE MUST APPROACH THESE ISSUES TOGETHER, AS AN ALLIANCE, AND JUDGE EACH QUESTION IN THE CONTEXT OF OUR OVERALL SECURITY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE NEXT DECADE.

-

WE MUST ASSURE THAT OUR FORCE PLANNING AND ARMS CONTROL STRATEGIES SERVE THE SAME PURPOSE.

-

IN SEEKING TO REDUCE TENSIONS AND TO BUILD A MORE STABLE DEPARTMENT FOR S/S TARNOFF ONLY

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PEACE, THE ALLIANCE SHOULD CONTINUE TO GIVE HIGH PRIORITY TO THE MUTUAL AND BALANCED FORCE REDUCTION TALKS IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 07 STATE 013443

VIENNA.

-

WE BELIEVE OUR NEGOTIATING PROPOSALS WOULD LEAD TO A MORE STABLE MILITARY SITUATION IN CENTRAL EUROPE, WITH LOWER FORCE LEVELS ON BOTH SIDES.

-

WE IN THE ALLIANCE ARE PREPARED TO BE FLEXIBLE IN SEEKING PROGRESS TOWARD A BALANCED OUTCOME THAT PROTECTS OUR INTERESTS.

-

BUT SERIOUS INTEREST IN MOVING THE TALKS FORWARD CANNOT BE ONE-SIDED. WE LOOK FOR AN EQUAL COMMITMENT AND CONTRIBUTION TOWARD PROGRESS IN THE TALKS FROM THE WARSAW PACT STATES.

-

LASTLY, AS ALLIES, WE MUST CONTINUE TO PROMOTE OUR STRENGTH IN OTHER AREAS -- ECONOMIC, POLITICAL, SOCIAL, MORAL.

-

IT IS PRECISELY WHEN THE CHALLENGE TO DEMOCRACY IS GREATEST THAT OUR LEADERS MUST MOST FIRMLY RESIST NON-DEMOCRATIC SOLUTIONS.

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I HAVE EVERY CONFIDENCE THAT THE NATIONS OF THE ALLIANCE,
AND NATO ITSELF, WILL BE MORE THAN EQUAL TO THESE TASKS.

-

I RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES CONFIDENT OF THE PROSPECTS
FOR A PEACEFUL WORLD WHICH RESPECTS HUMAN RIGHTS; I KNOW
THAT THE SECURITY OF OUR ALLIANCE IS THE ROCK ON WHICH
THAT HOPE IS BUILT. END TEXT. GLITMAN UNQUOTE
CHRISTOPHER

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